[METHOD FOR OPERATING A PRE-CRASH SENSING SYSTEM IN A VEHICLE HAVING A COUNTER-MEASURE SYSTEM]

Abstract of Disclosure

A pre-crash system (10) has a controller (12) coupled to an object sensor (18). Object sensor (18) has a vision system (22) that includes image sensors to detect an impact and in particular, a side impact. The image sensors provide a high frame rate to a video-processing chip (32) which in turn is coupled to a general purpose controller (34). The general-purpose controller 34 determines whether an object is an impending threat and controls the deployment of an airbag through an airbag controller (36) or other counter-measure. The high frame rate used in the present invention allows not only the distance to the object but the velocity of the object as well as the acceleration of the object to be determined and factored into the deployment decision.

Figures